

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KINSHA 00839 252114Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 SOE-02
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-14 L-03
NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02
DOE-11 INT-05 /122 W
-----012544 261712Z /45

R 251540Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7881
INFO AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
USDA/ERS

UNCLAS KINSHASA 0839

USDA FOR STEINER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV EAGR CG
SUBJECT: DATA FOR THE YEAR 2000 STUDY

REF: STATE 002024

1. NONE OF GOZ AGENCIES WHICH EMBOFFS QUERIED HAVE QUANTITIVE DATA WITH PROJECTIONS THROUGH THE YEAR 2000 REQUESTED IN REFTEL. INDIVIDUAL STUDIES EXIST FOR CERTAIN AREAS OF ZAIRE; BUT GIVEN IMMENSE VARIETY OF TERRAIN, SOIL, VEGETATION, AND CLIMATE, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO EXTRAPOLATE AND GENERALIZE FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. FOR EXAMPLE, AID/ZAIRE PREPARING STUDY ON LAND USAGE, SOILS, AND AGRICULTURAL YIELDS IN REGION OF NORTHERN SHABA WHERE AID IS COMMENCING LARGE-SCALE MAIZE PROJECT. HOWEVER CONDITIONS THERE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM MOUNTAINOUS REGIONS IN KIVU OR TROPICAL RAIN FORESTS OF ZAIRE RIVER BASIN. GIVEN MORE TIME AND MONEY, EMBASSY OR AID COULD RESEARCH DATA REQUESTED REFTEL. INFORMATION GIVEN BELOW DRAWN FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH KNOWLEDGE-ABLE GOZ OFFICIALS AND ADVISORS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 KINSHA 00839 252114Z

2. DEFORESTATION: WITH ABOUT ONE MILLION SQUARE KILOMETERS OF FORESTS (ABOUT 45 PERCENT OF LAND AREA), DEFORESTATION WAS NOT CONSIDERED A PROBLEM UNTIL RECENTLY. LUMBER COMPANIES HAVE DONE RELATIVELY LITTLE HARM OVER THE PREVIOUS DECADES SINCE THEY ONLY CUT 12 VARIETIES OF THE APPROXIMATELY 100 KINDS OF TREES WHICH GROW IN ZAIRE. CURRENTLY ABOUT 500,000 CUBIC METERS OF WOOD PER YEAR IS CUT FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES AND ABOUT ONE THIRD OF

THAT IS EXPORTED. HOWEVER, WITH RAPID POPULATION INCREASE OF CITIES, DEFORESTATION AROUND URBAN AREAS IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY EVIDENT. ONLY SIX PERCENT OF POPULATION HAVE ELECTRICITY, AND MAJORITY OF POPULATION CANNOT AFFORD KEROSENE. CONSEQUENTLY, GOZ ESTIMATES THAT ABOUT 20 MILLION CUBIC METERS OF WOOD PER ARE CONSUMED FOR HEAT AND TO MAKE CHARCOAL FOR COOKING. IN RELATIVELY HEAVILY POPULATED REGION OF BAS ZAIRE, 60 PERCENT OF FORESTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CUT. REMAINING MAJOR FOREST IN BAS ZAIRE OF 100,000 HECTARES AT MAYOMBE IS BEING HEAVILY EXPLOITED.

3. REFORESTATION: THE GOZ BEGAN PLANTING TREES (MAINLY EUCALYPTUS) AROUND KINSHASA AND IN BAS ZAIRE IN 1968. GOAL IS TO EXPAND THEIR ACTIVITY TO DEFORESTED AREAS AROUND OTHER CITIES, BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT YET WILLING TO ALLOCATE SUFFICIENT FUNDS. REPLANTING BRIGADE IS CURRENTLY UNDER CONTROL OF BUREAU DE PRESERVATION DE TERRE IN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION OF NATURE, AND TOURISM. PREVIOUSLY LUMBER COMPANIES PAID TAX TO GOZ TO COVER REFORESTATION COSTS. HOWEVER GOZ REFORESTATION EFFORTS IN LOGGED AREAS PROVED INADEQUATE; AND IN NOVEMBER 25, 1977, SPEECH, PRESIDENT MOBUTU REPEALED TAX AND ASKED LUMBER COMPANIES TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPLANTING.

4. EROSION AND SOIL: ALTHOUGH EROSION HAS BEEN ACCELERATED BY MINING AND SLASH AND BURN LAND CLEARING, ESPECIALLY ON THE BIANO PLATEAU IN SOUTHEASTERN ZAIRE, LATERIZATION AND LEACHING OF SOIL IS INDEMIC TO MOST OF ZAIRE DUE TO EXTREMELY HEAVY RAIN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 KINSHA 00839 252114Z

AND HEAT WHICH BREAKS DOWN HUMUS. IN THE AREAS OF SANDY TYPE SOIL, THERE IS MORE SILTATION DUE TO INCREASED LAND UTILIZATION. IRONICALLY BIGGEST NATURAL PROBLEM ON RIVERS CAUSED BY RAPIDLY SPREADING WATER HAYCINTH WHICH WAS INTRODUCED IN EARLY 1960'S AND IS NOW CLOGGING RIVERS AND LAKES. PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED BUREAU PLUS DIVISION WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PROMOTE SOIL CONSERVATION BUT THEIR EFFORTS ARE INADEQUATE.

5. LAND DEVELOPMENT: IN A COUNTRY WHERE 50 PERCENT OF THE TERRITORY IS POTENTIALLY ARABLE BUT ONLY 1 PERCENT IS ACTUALLY CULTIVATED, FARMERS CAN INCREASE YIELD MORE RAPIDLY AND MORE CHEAPLY BY CULTIVATING NEW LAND RATHER THAN INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE. SUBSISTENCE FARMERS TRADITIONALLY CLEAR NEW LAND EVERY THREE YEARS LEAVING USED LAND TO LIE FALLOW FOR TWELVE YEARS OR SO. COMMERCIAL FARMERS ARE WELL AWARE THAT YIELD INCREASES DRAMATICALLY, ESPECIALLY FOR PALM OIL AND CERTAIN OTHER CROPS, WHEN FERTILIZER ADDED TO LEACHED SOIL; BUT NO FERTILIZER IS MANUFACTURED LOCALLY AND CURRENT SHORTAGE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE HAS MADE FERTILIZER VERY SCARCE. WITH COMPLETION OF INGA DAM, ZAIRE WILL HAVE TREMENDOUS ELECTRICAL PRODUCTION WHICH COULD BE USED FOR MANUFACTURING FERTILIZER; BUT THIS IS FAR IN THE FUTURE. COSTS OF BRINGING ADDITIONAL

HECTARE INTO PRODUCTION DIFFER ENORMOUSLY FOR SUBSISTENCE
FARMERS WHO SLASH AND BURN, AND COMMERCIAL, MECHANIZED FARMERS.
COSTS TO COMMERCIAL FARMERS RISE DRAMATICALLY THE FURTHER THE
LAND IS LOCATED FROM HIGHWAYS, RAILROADS AND NAVIGABLE RIVERS.
FUEL IS CURRENTLY VERY SCARCE IN THE INTERIOR WHICH GREATLY ADDS
TO COST OF CULTIVATING NEW LAND FAR FROM KINSHASA OR LUBUMBASHI.
CUTLER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DATA, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINSHA00839
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780039-0212
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780125/aaaaauud.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 81cfa1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 2024
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3718021
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DATA FOR THE YEAR 2000 STUDY
TAGS: SENV, EAGR, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/81cfa1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014